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USE OF PODBIELNIAK METHOD IN POLAND
FOR ANALYZING NATURAL GAS

Aniela Stec

The Petroleum Institute in Poland conducts qualitative and quantitative analysis on samples of domestic natural gases to establish the most economical exploitation and, particularly, to determine the content of propane, isobutane, n-butane, and pentane. A method of quantitative and qualitative analysis is one developed in the USA by W. J. Podbielniak, a Pole. This method consists of the fractional distillation of a mixture of gases condensed at -164 degrees centigrade, the temperature of liquid air.

Before the war, the Podbielniak method was applied at three centers of the petroleum industry -- Galicja, Polmin, and Rostoki. During German occupation, the Rostoki apparatus was transferred to the chemical laboratory for petroleum in Krosno. During the war, in 1944, the apparatus was dismantled and the most valuable parts were stored in a private dwelling. When the chemical laboratory was again activated, the apparatus was assembled and is now the only one of its kind in Poland.

Although the variation of the Podbielniak apparatus used in Poland is somewhat obsolete, it has been of great service to the gas industry. During the past 5 years, it was used for 550 tests on gas, gasoline, and crude petroleum.

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